

THE ROMULUS ROMAN

DATE DUE

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NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST

75¢

Starfish welcomes 'safe' children

Area teens will have a new resource to help them reach a safe haven when they are facing challenges at the Inkster-based Starfish Family Services Counterpoint Runaway & Crisis Center. The center will be the first teen shelter in Michigan to participate in the Safe Place program.

Starfish – which provides services to vulnerable individuals throughout Wayne County – will be one of 50 new Safe Place locations in the Detroit metro area. The Safe Place program is offered in 41 states.

"We are excited to be Michigan's first agency to implement the Safe Place program," said Ann Kalass, CEO of Starfish Family Services. "We hope to be a catalyst for other community centers to get involved in this important program that helps keep our youth safe and provide them with appropriate assistance."

The Safe Place program works by offering youths in crisis a designated Safe Place location to enter the business and tell the first available employee that they need Safe Place help. The Safe Place volunteer or staff member will arrive to talk with the youth and transport him or her to the agency for counseling, support, a place to stay or other resources. The Safe Place businesses in Michigan include police departments, fast food restaurants, convenience stores, public schools, youth organizations and several other community and retail outlets.

More than 16,000 sites across the country extend the doors of local youth shelters by displaying the Safe Place sign or decal on their premises.

The timing of the announcement from Starfish comes during National Runaway Prevention month.

Between 1.3 million and 2.8 million youth are homeless or experience a runaway situation each year, according to data compiled by Safe Place administrators.

Last year, Starfish Counterpoint provided assistance to more than 220 youths ages 10 to 17 and their families by providing temporary shelter, individual and group counseling, family involvement, prevention education and case management for youths and families.

The Safe Place program is one a cadre of services offered at Starfish. Others include free preschool programs, a crisis shelter for teens, after-school and summer programming, an organic children's garden and a comprehensive array of behavioral health services.

The agency serves more than 7,600 children and their families at numerous service sites each year.

City sees decline in crime levels

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Romulus residents and the police department received good news last week when an FBI report indicated crime was on the decline in the city.

The FBI Uniform Crime Report, called "Crime in the United States" was recently released to the public – specifically for small communities, although it was far behind schedule.

Last year the report, which contains an analysis of data that is self-reported from local police departments, showed that in Romulus, both violent and property crimes were trending downward from measurements taken in 2006 – even though the estimated population inched upward for

the same time period.

Administrative Police Lt. John Leacher said he couldn't point to one aspect that may have given Romulus better results.

"If I had to say one thing that has improved, it would be communication among individual units, which was made a priority several years ago, and as far as I know, is still a priority," he said.

"In the detective bureau, we became a little better at relaying information to those patrol officers on the front lines," he said. "We were able to help get them where we knew crime would likely occur."

The data shows that 138 known violent crimes – which are classified as murder, manslaughter, rape, and assault – occurred from January to December 2007 in the

FBI Crime Statistics – Romulus

	2007	2006
Population	24,269	23,794
Murder/manslaughter	2	1
Forcible rape	16	19
Robbery	29	30
Assault	91	131
Burglary	210	233
Larceny/Theft	563	627
Motor Vehicle Theft	202	166
Arson	9	13

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Reporting System

city.

From January 2006 to 2007, 181 known violent crimes were committed.

Specifically, two murders/manslaughters were

reported, along with 16 forcible rapes, 29 robberies, and 91 aggravated assaults. When violent crime data was compared with

See Crime, page 4



Safety first

Public Service Credit Union hosted a day for child safety recently at the main branch in Romulus. The free event featured the Romulus police fingerprinting children and Romulus firefighters showing children around a real fire truck and giving safety tips. They also handed out junior police badges and showed students how radar guns work in real police cars. The firefighters handed out special junior badges and helmets, along with coloring books. "Serving the community is part of the Public Service Credit Union mission and this is just another example of how PSCU reaches out to the communities we serve," said Dean Trudeau, president and CEO of Public Service Credit Union. Mayor Alan Lambert, above, took time to pose for a photo with the Rushing family of Romulus, while (first right) a junior firefighter familiarizes himself with a truck, and (second right) Ofc. Matthew Krol fingerprints Ben Lemanski.



Senator wants to enforce club tax

Adult club patrons could face a steeper price to get into the door of their preferred establishments if a recently-introduced State Senate bill is approved.

Sen. Ray Basham (D-Taylor) has sponsored two bills would allow local municipalities to require

employees of adult establishments to obtain a local work permit to ensure that they are of legal age to be employed there. Another provision would create an adult entertainment facility tax of \$3 per customer that would be deposited into the state domestic violence

prevention and treatment fund

"Employing underage individuals to work in these harmful environments is not only illegal, it's child endangerment," said Basham. "By working together

See Bill, page 4

GM job losses a concern

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

City officials and residents are obviously apprehensive regarding the recent announcement that there would be 1,900 more layoffs at General Motors stamping and powertrain facilities.

The automaker, which was hit hard by lagging sales and downgraded stock prices, operates an engine plant on Ecorse Road that employs several residents, and serves as the largest taxpayer in the city.

Though its not clear how many layoffs there would be at the plant, or if there would be any at all, officials at city hall have more than a passing interest in the fate of the Big Three automakers and the likely bailout that could ensure solvency for the manufacturers.

"We have not heard from anyone over at GM, and we have no idea what will happen there," said Tim Keyes, city economic development director.

Calls made to the GM Ecorse Road facility went unreturned Tuesday. However, it's highly unlikely that there would be a closing of the facility because it produces in-demand engines for many successful vehicles, officials said.

The Romulus Engine facility produces several popular engines. Workers there make more than 1 million engines per year.

The number of automotive factories – especially in Wayne County – has officials concerned that there could be a number of vacant facilities that would be redeveloped if they were closed.

This week, four mayors – Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey, Warren Mayor James Fouts, Sterling Heights Mayor Richard Nott and Dearborn Mayor Jack O'Reilly – indicated that they would like to see redevelopment funds set aside by the federal government for local governments should the massive bailout that could save a cowed U.S. auto industry leave a group of factories without a tenant.

The aid would be based on a percentage of the assessed value of the

See Plant, page 4

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Chamber director fired, consultant hired

Andrea King
 Staff Writer

Kelly Boelter, the former executive director of the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce, still does not understand the reasons she was recently fired from her job.

Boelter was told, she said, that the firing was in based on "poor job performance" but she says she finds that difficult to accept in light of the circumstances.

"I'm so confused by so many different things," said Boelter. "I was fired for job performance, which wasn't near true because of all the positive feedback I received, including from the chamber president and the chamber president elect."

Boelter, who was fired on Oct. 30, started at the Belleville chamber last March. She said she felt her performance did not merit firing and that she was the right person for the job.

"I thought it was a joke," she said. "Vicki (the board president) looked upset as if she didn't want to do it. It was extremely emotional because I thought I was going to retire from that job," said Boelter. "By talking to the board members it all came clear what it was about. I loved that board, I thought they were great people—they are all volunteers."

Boelter said no one ever spoke to her prior to her release about problems with job performance. Before she was fired, she said she was working on the chamber Christmas program and was constantly 'praised' about the newsletter.

"I did a good job and I got a lot of feedback on how much I learned," Boelter said. "I also received a lot of support from the community. I don't plan on hiding my head because I did nothing wrong. I miss my job. Being a chamber member is such a benefit; it can only help a business. "I can't believe it's over," she

said. "I'm starting a whole new adventure now."

Members of the Chamber board remained unavailable for comment on the situation.

Lianne Clair, a Van Buren Township trustee, will take over as the interim executive director of the chamber. She said she was not hired for the position, but is there on a consulting basis to assess, evaluate and report back to the chamber board.

"I could be hired on, but I could do employee relations on a consulting basis," Clair said.

Clair, owner of Lianne I. Clair Administrative and Consulting Purposes, has done past work with the Huron Library System and was a controller for the Library Network. Her term will end with Van Buren Township Board of Trustees soon, and was approached for consulting services by the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce board, she said.



Lianne Clair

Clair said she considers Boelter's firing and her interim position to be completely separate issues. Clair also resigned from her position on the executive chamber board, as well, she said.

"I hope to assess and evaluate the position for the board to move forward, especially efficisize, update and determine what sorts of services, goods and tasks should be contracted out," Clair said. "Also, the culture of the chamber and help the board determine the path for the future."

As the interim director, Clair will continue the day-to-day business, too.

"I'm looking forward to the continued success that this office has as a business community and information place," she said. "It's also to position the chamber for a future to receive and assist from other business, for example the Aerotropolis project, seeing how the chamber needs to modify and how we can be of service and a physical presence in the outline."

"This office has always done a good job as a resource for the community and growing for future needs," she added.



History in the making

All of the students and staff of Elwell Elementary School took a trip recently to Henry Ford Museum funded by a grant from the MASCO Foundation. Students LaTroy Steward, Daylan Jackson, Chase Horvath, Timothy Gray, Tyler Leboida, Kyle Neid, Travis Kruschlin, Daniel Dubin, Arianna Crout, Kaitlyn Warren, Nour Mensour and chaperones enjoyed the event.

Wayne considers Farmers Market

Scott Spielman
 Editor

If all goes according to plan, there may be a Farmer's Market in the City of Wayne next year.

"We're hoping to get it off the ground," said Wayne Mayor Al Haidous.

Members of the Wayne 20/20 Committee got together in a special meeting last week to discuss the issue. Bringing a farmer's market to the city was one of their original concepts when the committee was formed a couple of years ago.

"We're hoping we can bring that to fruition," said Hal Hultman, chair of the

20/20 Committee. "We think it's doable."

The issue has come up several times recently, but has taken on new momentum since the committee and the Wayne Chamber of Commerce have formed a sub-committee to look into it. Hultman said members of both groups have been looking into other farmer's markets to determine what makes them successful, including the type of products they provide and more.

"You have to look at what percentage of the town would patronize it," said Hultman, who added that the market could draw from other communities, as well. "I think (people) would come to it unless there's another market closer."

Westland Taste Fest tickets on sale

Meghan Chatham
 Staff Writer

Time is running out to buy tickets to the annual Holiday Taste Fest in Westland.

Organized each year by the Westland Chamber of Commerce, the event offers participants the chance to sample foods prepared by more than dozen area restaurants—from old favorites to newcomers. This year, the event will take place from 6-8:30 p.m. on Dec. 2 at the Hellenic Cultural Center. The center is located at 36375 Joy Road between Wayne and Newburg roads in Westland.

Westland Chamber of Commerce president and CEO Brookellen Swope said that the event has become a community favorite.

"It's really a very economical night out," she said, adding that tickets traditionally sell out.

Diners should come hungry since the participating restaurants will offer tasty tidbits as well as house specialties for individuals to enjoy. A wide array of food options also offer diversity designed to tempt the taste buds.

"There's always a new standout," said Swope.

Participants this year include the

Lakeshore Grill at Macy's, Ashley's Bar and Grill, Dario's Italian Eatery, the Hellenic Cultural Center, Longhorn Steakhouse, Marvaso's Italian Grille, Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe, Olga's Kitchen, Qdoba Mexican Grill, Red Robin, Starbucks, Texas Road House, and the Wayne-Westland Community Schools Culinary Arts Department. In addition to the food, the event will feature entertainment including a silent auction and door prizes.

Tickets for the event are \$20 per person and are available through the Westland Chamber of Commerce. The event is open to 500 participants each year, but Swope said that people should hurry if they don't want to be left out.

"There are about 100 left," she said. "They go fast."

Tickets may be purchased by cash, check, or charged to a Visa, MasterCard, or American Express card. No tickets will be available at the door.

"We do get a lot of repeat participants," said Swope.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the Westland Chamber of Commerce between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at (734) 326-7222 or visit 36900 Ford Road.

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Salvation Army seeks donations, volunteers

This Christmas, the Salvation Army is turning to the community for help to provide a happy holiday for area residents in need of assistance.

Whether individuals can share a toy, some food, or a few hours of their time, Salvation Army Wayne/Westland Corps volunteer coordinator Sandy Kollinger said that the organization needs help in a myriad of ways.

"My need is actually very great all across the board," she said.

The Wayne-Westland branch, which oversees Salvation Army services in the communities of Wayne, Westland, Inkster, Romulus, and New Boston, will once again offer the annual Angel Tree inside Westland Shopping Center for those who are willing to add a needy child to their shopping list beginning this week. The tree, located in the east court near the customer service desk, allows an individual to purchase an age-appropriate gift or gifts for desig-

nated low-income children.

"We're looking for people to actually adopt children and adopt families as well," said Kollinger.

To do so, individuals are asked to provide a food box for the family and some gifts for the children of the family. For more information, individuals should contact Robin Rutledge-Clarke at (734) 722-3660.

The gift of time, however, is also a sought-after commodity. As usual, the Salvation Army is searching for individuals willing to volunteer as a bell-ringer at sites within the community during the annual kettle drive. Slots are available between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays through Christmas. Interested individuals may sign up online for bell-ringer slots in communities throughout the region, including Westland, at www.ring-bell.org.

"It's a minimum of a two-hour commitment," said Kollinger.

"They get to pick the time and the location. The money that is raised in our kettles helps support a lot of our programming."

She added that the money collected during the kettle drives remains in the community to assist area families. With the economic challenges facing the region, that number is expected to be substantial.

"Last year, we assisted 670 families," said Kollinger. "This year, we're on track to meet and exceed that number." Specific numbers are not available yet, however, since registration for Christmas assistance doesn't end until Dec. 10.

Several indoor volunteer opportunities are also available. Individuals are needed to supervise the Angel Tree at Westland Shopping Center with shifts available between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday from Saturday until Dec. 13. Help is also needed between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Dec. 13 to set up for Christmas Toy shop. Finally, assistance is needed between 9 a.m. and noon and between 1-4 p.m. from Dec. 16-18 for Christmas distribution to the families.

Individuals can also contact the Salvation Army Wayne-Westland Corps at (734) 722-3660 for more

information or to sign up as a volunteer for any of the events. New toy donations are welcome through Dec. 13 and donations of nonperishable foods and money are always accepted at the Wayne-Westland Corps office, located at 2300 Venoy Road between Cherry Hill Road and Michigan Avenue.



The outdoor recreation pool is one of several at the Romulus Athletic Center, which won a statewide award earlier this week.

Making waves Recreation Center wins state award

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Only one year after the grand opening, the Romulus Athletic Center is receiving some statewide recognition.

The center was awarded the 2008 President's Plaque by Keep Michigan Beautiful, a non-profit that has served since the 1960s as the official state organization promoting beautification. City officials learned of the award Oct. 17.

"This award recognizes something that the families of Romulus have known since early this year — that the Romulus Athletic Center is one of the most beautiful, family friendly, comprehensive and best health facilities around," said Mayor Alan Lambert. "The City of Romulus is honored to win this

award. And we're very proud of our athletic center because it was designed and built with the families of Romulus first and foremost."

Since the April 2008 opening, the center has earned high marks from residents.

The facility is located in Romulus next door to Detroit Metro Airport and offers both state-of-the-art athletic facilities and stunning views of the airport area. The facility — which was formerly a vacant warehouse — was modernized after an overall plan was finalized by city officials in 2005.

The project was financed by the Tax Increment Financing Authority, which also provided start-up funding for the center. The overall plan is for the facility to be

financially self-sustaining by selling low-cost memberships to Romulus residents. Memberships are also available to non-residents at a slightly higher cost.

The center is one of the biggest recreation facilities in Wayne County, and includes a splash pool,

a lazy river, a two-story water slide, and a traditional lap pool. The center also features more than 6,000 square feet of fitness equipment, a climbing wall, an elevated track, a large gym area, meeting rooms and a daycare center.

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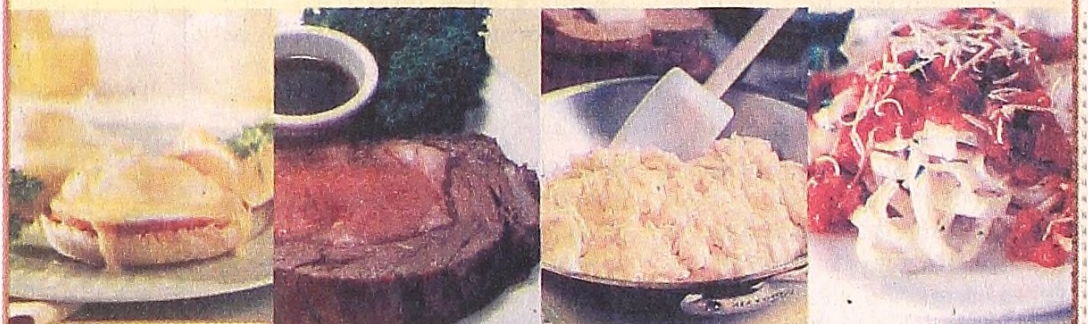
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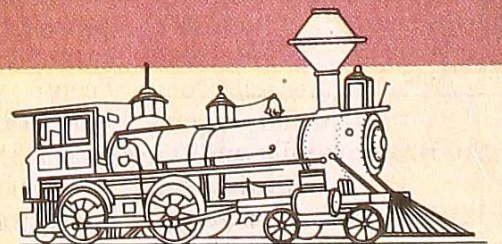
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Airport executive is honored by state group

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

An official at Detroit Metropolitan Airport is getting kudos for her efforts this week.

The Michigan Aeronautics Commission (MAC) has honored Susy Heintz Avery, director of state government relations for the Wayne County Airport Authority, with the 2008 MAC Award of Excellence.

Heintz Avery was given the award for her work with the Michigan Legislature in forwarding along federal funding to state airports.

Authorization to pass along the federal funds became caught up in a dispute in the Legislature about funding for colleges and universities. State airports had applied for and won the federal funding, but the Michigan Legislature needed to act to accept and forward the funds to airports.

“Last fiscal year, with construction season fast approaching, state airports were operating in the frustrating predicament of not knowing whether the federal funding for our projects would be passed along by the Michigan Legislature or not,” said Wayne County Airport Authority CEO Lester Robinson.

“I am proud of the diplomacy and hard work of our airport’s Susy Avery who was the key individual in releasing these aviation funds to airports across the State of Michigan,” he added.

Heintz-Avery said she’s honored by the recognition.

“I accept this award on behalf of all of my counterparts in Michigan’s aviation community who worked very hard to convey a positive message to legislators,” said Avery. “Capital improvements at airports create local business opportunities and jobs that cannot be

outsourced.”

More than \$24 million was at risk for Detroit Metropolitan Airport projects—including reconstruction of a taxiway important to the timely opening of the new North Terminal.

Nearly \$10 million hung in the balance for projects at Willow Run. Statewide \$167.5 million in capital projects was at risk. Many other officials from airports across the state joined with Avery in this effort.

“Susy Avery played a central role in working with the Legislature and the Michigan Department of Transportation to pass this important funding legislation,” said MAC Director Rob Abent. “The Michigan Aeronautics Commission recognized Ms. Avery’s contribution to the advancement of aviation in this arena and chose to publicly acknowledge her with this prestigious award. She has our sincere thanks and appreciation.”

The Michigan Aeronautics Commission, in 1990, began the practice of recognizing one individual and one organization whose contributions foster and enhance aviation in Michigan. Along with Avery, the commission honored the Kalamazoo Air Zoo.

For the current (2009) state fiscal year, the Legislature assigned aeronautics to the Michigan Department of Transportation budget as opposed to the Capital Outlay Budget to more smoothly channel federal aviation funding to the airports.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm has signed that budget so state airports will have less of an issue accessing the federal funds they have earned.

“We can be proud of our elected officials in Michigan who graciously welcomed Susy into their offices during a very busy time at the Capitol,” said Robinson. “They listened to her positive message and acted accordingly.”

Calendar of events

Fall book club announced

The Second Monday Book Club selections for discussion scheduled throughout the winter months have been chosen.

Book club members meet the second Monday of each month to discuss various books. The club meets from 7-8:15 p.m. at the library.

The selections include: *Mr. Paradise* by Elmore Leonard, which will be discussed on Nov. 10; *Death of Ivan Ilyich* by Leo Tolstoy, which will be discussed Dec. 8; *American Detective: An Amos Walker Mystery* by Loren D.Estleman, which will be discussed Jan. 12; *Ladies of Liberty* by Cokie Roberts, which will be discussed Feb. 9; *Thief of Souls* by Ann Benson, which will be discussed March 9; and *Anatomy of a Murder* by Robert Traver, which will be discussed April 13.

Book discussions are free and open to everyone 18 and older. Readers need not register in advance.

The library will have copies of the books, or will assist participants in obtaining an inter-library loan copy.

The Romulus Library is located at 11121 Wayne Road, next door to the Romulus City Hall facility.

For more information, call the library at (734) 941-3575.

Flu shots offered

The threat of a flu epidemic is as real as ever, according to state and county health officials. It is always wise to protect yourself and your family because one never knows how serious or widespread influenza will be in any given year, they said.

Sav-On Drug stores throughout metro Detroit will have flu clinics through December. Flu shots are \$25 this year, and pneumonia shots will be offered for \$35.

Payment options include cash, check and credit card, as well Medicare and medical insurances.

The clinics are open to the public for people 14 and older. For a weekly listing of flu clinics, visit flushotcalendar.com or call 1-877-SAV ON 2 U (877-728-6628.)

Clinics are scheduled for 2-4 p.m. Nov. 17, and will take place at the Sav-On Family Pharmacy at 36567 Goddard Road.

For more information, call (734) 941-0755.

— Events are compiled by Staff Writer Molly Tippen.

Crime

FROM PAGE 1

that from last year, only the number of murders increased – from one to two – from 2006 to 2007.

Leacher said that these sorts of offenses typically don’t respond to traditional law enforcement approaches.

“One thing that I would say is that we have good intel (intelligence) from the schools, where some of this kind of thing occurs, and we have excellent resource officers,” he said.

Property crime – classified as burglary, larceny and theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson – are crimes that the department concedes were at levels that were unacceptable in 2006.

However, last year, the numbers came down.

In total, the number of property crimes dipped significantly, from 1,026 known incidents in 2006 to 975 in 2007.

One crime that did not see a decrease was automobile theft, which spiked by 36 reports this year.

Leacher said the level of prop-

erty crime is almost always driven by economic factors.

“A few days ago we had a case of Iraq War veterans who were stealing copper piping, and they did it because they were trying to put food on the table,” he said. “(The economy) doesn’t make it any less wrong, and we certainly don’t condone it, but it’s more or less a sign of the times in Michigan.”

Overall, city officials are happy with the news that crime is down.

“With the economy the way it has been for awhile, a lot of communities saw crime go up,” he said. “I think we’re very fortunate that crime is down – I think it shows the police are doing a good job.”

“It’s always good for everybody involved if the city has a lowered crime rate,” Mayor Alan Lambert added.

The FBI Uniform Crime Reporting System measures crime levels in communities nationwide to help law enforcement personnel focus their efforts on community-specific issues that need to be addressed.

The report in full can be viewed at www.fbi.gov/ucr.

Bill

FROM PAGE 1

with the Brown family and the Lincoln Park Ministerial Association, I hope to erase any oversights and prevent these tragic incidents from occurring in the future.”

The situation that give rise to the introduction of the bill package occurred in March 2007 at Atlantis, a strip club in Lincoln Park.

Stephanie Brown although she was only 17 years old and did not carry an adult cabaret employee license, which is required by the Lincoln Park code of ordinances, was allegedly hired to work at the adult club.

On her second night working at Atlantis Brown died following a lethal dose of cocaine.

Before this incident, Brown had no criminal record or history of using drugs and planned to attend college, Basham said.

Brown’s family contacted Basham shortly after Stephanie

Residents lose 300 pounds

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Getting fit has been big news in the city of Romulus.

At the new Romulus Athletic Center, more than 130 residents are currently taking part in the “Mayor’s Fitness Challenge,” a take-off on the popular NBC reality show The Biggest Loser.

Introduced by Mayor Alan Lambert earlier this year, residents have lost 300 pounds, said Tim Keyes, who helped organize the event.

“This program is set up so people can weigh in at the end,” he said. Eighty-five people have already weighed in. When you think of how much weight they’ve actually lost, it’s quite significant.”

The mayor’s fitness challenge, which is open to adults 18 and older, began Oct. 6 and will continue through Nov. 23. At the end of the program, the male and female contestant whose weight-loss percentage has gone down the most will be winners. Prizes will be awarded to the first, second and third biggest losers.

Mayor Alan Lambert – a former

police officer, outdoorsman and fitness buff – said losing weight is about more than aesthetics.

“Growing up, I was taught that life has its ups and downs – so this challenge is all about bringing the pounds down and the heart rate up,” he said.

“I have always believed that good health helps build strong families. One of the best partners in the fitness challenge is the Romulus Athletic Center, which is a great venue for exercise. Our fitness challenge has gotten great response this year, and we’re happy to help the citizens of Romulus meet their health goals and continue living a healthy lifestyle today and into the future,” he added.

So far, Lambert has lost 10 pounds.

As part of the program, Weight Watchers representatives were brought in to meet with the participants to conduct classes on the importance of exercise and nutrition, and provide support. Participants are also asked to avail themselves of the equipment at the athletic center. Exercise routines are built on the same principles as the TV show – strength and cardio.

Trainers who work at the club track the progress and workouts of the participating individuals.

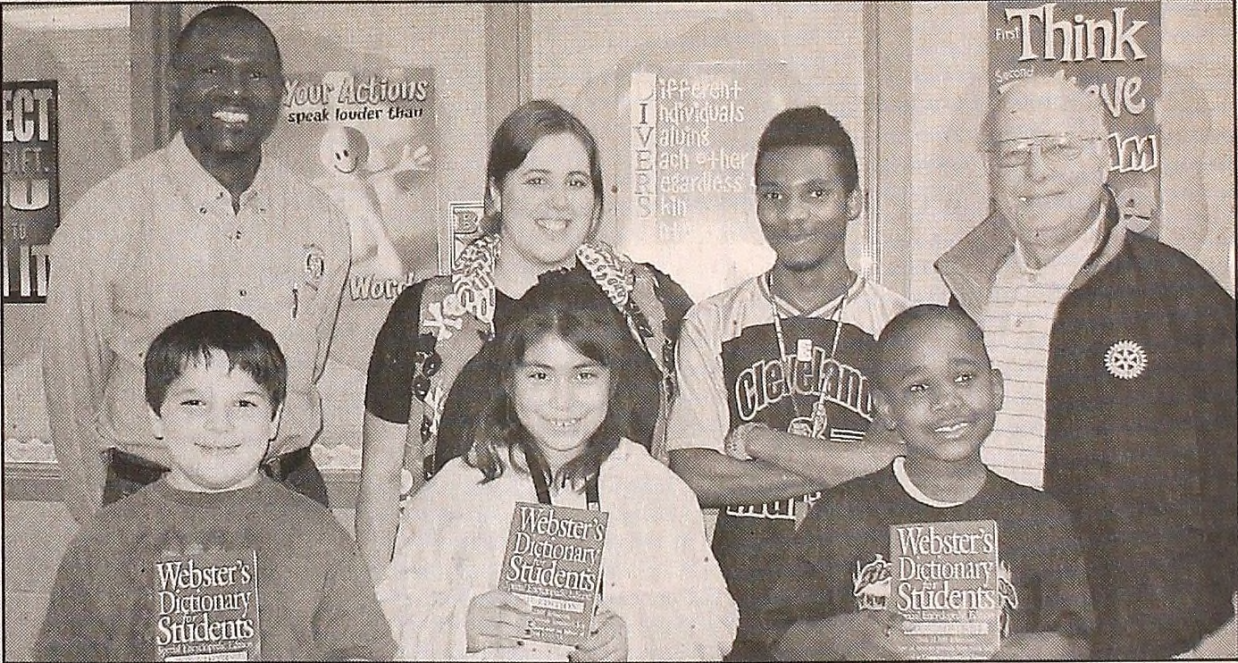
A lack of exercise that has seemingly pervaded the culture in the United States has taken a toll, and not only in terms of self-esteem.

According to the Center for Disease Control’s Behavioral Risk Surveillance System, about 27.7 of Michigan residents could be described as overweight or obese.

There is also a national weight problem that has other costs – in dollars and when it comes to personal well-being. The American Heart Association estimates that 142 million people over the age of 20 are significantly overweight or obese, which leads to never-before-seen numbers of people with premature heart disease and type II diabetes.

In Romulus, the effort to head off those problems is in full swing.

“My challenge is one way to help get more folks motivated, setting goals together, breaking a sweat and losing some pounds,” Lambert said. “Exercise and weight loss are two of the best ways to improve overall health, prevent disease and injury, and enjoy a good quality of life.”



Romulus Rotary donates dictionaries

Romulus Rotary Club members recently stopped by Cory Elementary School to donate new Webster Collegiate Dictionaries to each third grader. This is the third year the Rotarians have donated the dictionaries to each third grade student in the Romulus Community Schools. On hand during the presentation were: (front row, left to right) Charles Tigney, Kimberly Osorio, and Glenn Hamby (back row, left to right) Emery Long- Romulus Rotary, Katie Koester- Romulus High School Interact member, Miekyle Turner- Romulus Interact member, and Kris Moe- Romulus Rotary.

Plant

FROM PAGE 1

factory.

Right now, officials in communities like Romulus are pinning their hopes on the swift approval of a bailout package.

Congressman John D. Dingell said there is a need for Congress to provide investment to the U.S. auto industry after GM and Ford announced larger than expected losses in the third quarter.

“What would happen if someone told the cities of New Orleans, Norfolk, Virginia or Scottsdale, Arizona that everyone there lost their jobs?” he said. “If we told the people of Birmingham, Alabama or Madison, Wisconsin or Durham, North Carolina ‘don’t bother to come to work because there isn’t any work left’ how would they react? I am sure that the leaders of these cities, the governors, all elected officials would come asking for help – as they should – and we would give it to them.”

“All the above cities have populations around 240,000 people – and

that’s the number of jobs we lost in just the last month. It is clear we have an emergency situation on our hands here. By Jan. 20, 2009 many of the working families affected in recent weeks and months will see their unemployment running out; we can’t afford to wait.”

Currently, according to data compiled by Dingell’s office, one out of every 10 U.S. jobs is auto-related.

GM, Ford and Chrysler account for roughly 70 percent of U.S. auto production and are estimated to support around 5 million jobs across all 50 states.

Brown’s death.

“My family and I are devastated over our loss caused by these illegal, manipulative acts,” said Richard Sands, grandfather of Brown. “Stephanie had a bright future ahead of her and it’s infuriating that her life was cut short because of club owners who prey on our children.”

Brown’s family filed a lawsuit in Wayne County Circuit Court against Atlantis today citing negligence and a sexually hostile work environment.

There are two adult clubs locat-

ed in the city of Romulus, including the Landing Strip and the Playhouse. The management at the Landing Strip was unreachable for comment Tuesday.

The city instituted a licensure ordinance for dancers several years ago reduce the chances of under-aged women working at the club.

An employee of the Atlantis Club in Lincoln Park denied culpability for the incident that led to Stephanie Brown’s death, and said that the victim never worked for the club.

“(Brown) never really worked here; she tried to work here and had a fake I.D.,” said Tammy, an employee of the club who declined to give her last name.

“The incident that took place actually took place in Melvindale, in a hotel room . . . it’s going to be interesting to see how all of this plays out.”

The man who gave Brown the cocaine was convicted for delivery of a controlled substance, and is serving jail time.

The two bills are identified as Senate Bill 1612 and 1613.

OPINION

Veterans' Day spirit should continue all year

It's still somewhat easy to forget about the contributions our veterans have made to our country.

That's a strange statement to make given the continual barrage of primarily bad news that filters in about ongoing conflicts overseas. We hear about crashes, tragedies, loss of life, of the sacrifices our service men and women are making and the reasons why.

Back here, we tend to forget about that personal angle, and are only reminded during days like Tuesday, Veteran's Day, when on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month we gather for a few minute ceremony to honor the

thousands that have paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

Don't get us wrong, we think those ceremonies are important. We'd like to thank everyone who worked to put them together and those of us who took time out of our schedule to bow our heads and give a silent thanks.

Veterans are special people and they deserve our gratitude all year long. No matter what you may think about the war going on in Iraq or Afghanistan, the people who are over there fighting for us are those that knew they were entering a hostile territory, that they faced the ultimate risk and little reward and

No matter what you may think about the war going on in Iraq or Afghanistan, the people who are over there fighting for us are those that knew they were entering a hostile territory, that they faced the ultimate risk and little reward and they did it anyway.

they did it anyway. Some of them had been there before and, even though their duty was done, they decided to do more.

Perhaps this day has added significance—as so many things do, these days—after the historic elec-

tion that took place last week. Where else but in America could such a thing happen? And how else could such a thing be possible without the sacrifices of our veterans?

We'd like to pause and offer our thanks today and every other day.

And that thanks, we think, doesn't always have to be a formal ceremony or a special event.

It can be as simple as a nod or a thank you to a man or woman in the uniform of one of our armed services we see in the mall, or pass on the street.

It can be as simple as a small gesture in a restaurant or a smile and a nod to someone we know as a veteran or who is serving our country now.

Veteran's Day is a fitting tribute, but should not limit our thanks and our appreciation to those who have earned our gratitude and who protect our freedom.

Careful study needed

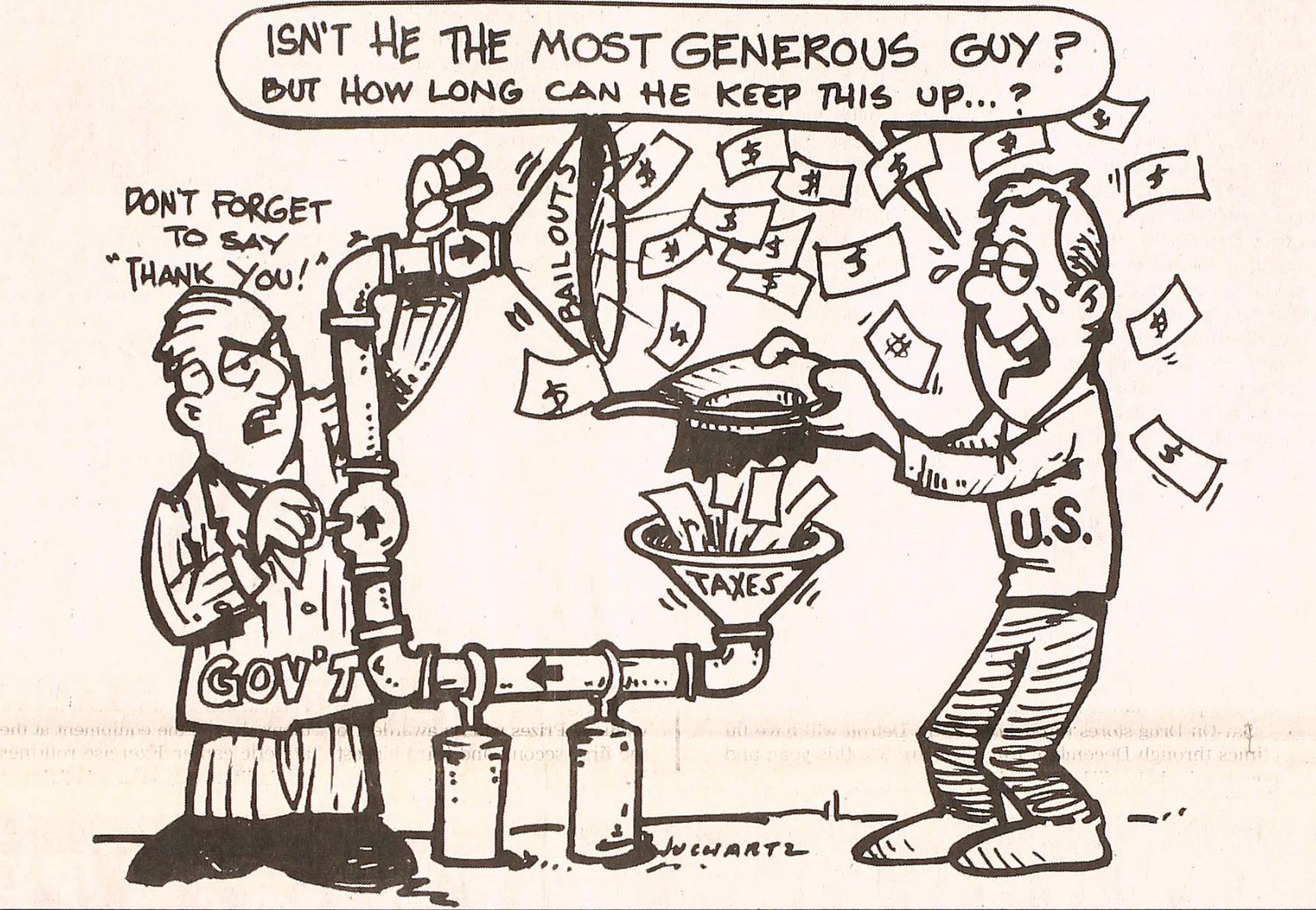
Members of the Northville City Council, the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) board and planning commission got together Monday night to discuss an amendment to the borders of the DDA District.

This idea had a bit of a quirky beginning. It started with the successful—and ultimately temporary—move of the Friday night concert series to the green space behind Northville City Hall while the new town square was under construction. Add to that the desire to get some additional funding for activities at Mill Race Village and the urge to add Gardenviews into the district—it's currently on the wrong side of the street—and it makes sense to take a look at the borders of the district and plan for the future.

We have concerns about this issue, which is admittedly in the early, early stages. We don't want the DDA district to grow larger than its budget can sustain. We're concerned about adding in some of the residential portions that were discussed and putting an additional tax levy on property owners. An additional 2 mills was added onto properties within the DDA in 1998. That has since been rolled back to 1.836 mills, but that would be levied to all properties within the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district, if they are included in the expansion.

There can be benefits in adding area like the green space behind city hall, the historical village and even property along Northville Road, should it factor into many of the things the planning commission is striving for. (The 'river walk' leading from the village to Northville Downs sounds particularly intriguing.) It also makes sense to look at the area including and surrounding the Foundry Flask and Belanger property, too, as those would be prime areas for redevelopment and they are near the gateway to the downtown area. To add in the senior center—which would also include the Northville school property—and the Northville Downs area might be taking things a bit too far.

It's also important to get plenty of input from residents and business owners, as well.



Political parties are alive and well

The election last week showed me a couple of things.

First of all, the right combination of disgust and hope can bring a record number of people to the polls.

The turnout in itself was historic as an unprecedented number of voters cast their ballots—the turnout was as high as 80 percent in some communities in western Wayne County, and no lower than about 65 percent. Residents of Michigan—and the nation in general, I think, cast their votes of dissatisfaction with the current administration and put their hopes behind Barack Obama, even though a poll taken just days before the election showed more voters had confidence that his Republican challenger had the experience to do the job.

It also showed me the advances we've made in voting technology—and the training undertaken by our municipal clerks—has more than paid off. Long lines at precincts moved swiftly, ballots

The turnout in itself was historic as an unprecedented number of voters cast their ballots—the turnout was as high as 80 percent in some communities in western Wayne County, and no lower than about 65 percent.

were counted speedily and accurate results announced quickly. Those in charge of the election and the many workers who dedicated their day to it deserve a round of applause, at least.

If ever there was an election that showed the difficulty that third parties—or independent candidates—have in breaking open the two-party system, though, this was it.

In many communities, straight party ballots swayed the election. In others, they flat out decided races. Take a look at Van Buren Township, for instance. There,

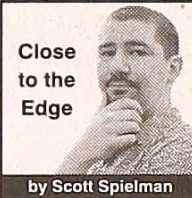
5,568 residents who voted a straight party ticket checked the Democratic box. Only 1,634 checked the Republican box, which gave Democrats a 3,934 vote advantage.

Republican candidates like Felicia Paris-Brooks, who after the election touted that as one of the main reasons she lost, might not have won anyway, but it clearly provided her competition a distinct advantage. It also helped propel Dian Slavens into the state Legislature over her Republican challenger Todd LaJoy, who was better qualified for the position.

In Northville Township, straight Republican ballots probably cost Carol Poenisch the election, too. The Democrat was at the forefront of the annexation fight against Livonia, but she couldn't overcome the 1,100 vote margin straight party voters gave her competition.

I can somewhat understand voters towing the party line in larger elections, like state or federal contests—although I personally and professionally weigh candidates individually—but I've never understood it at the local level.

Even so, I find it strange at a time when most people claim they are fed up with party politics that so many of us would just cast a sweeping vote. I'm glad that so many people came out to cast their ballots, but I wonder what the election results would look like if voters had spent more time researching candidates as individuals, not by their party affiliate.



Close to the Edge by Scott Spielman

JOURNAL

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MPA

NINA

Searching for some real 'good news'

Pardon me, but can you spare an ounce of optimism?

I don't know about anyone else, but I'm on a quest for some good news.

Each day, I read headlines and watch news reports filled with doom and gloom with dour proclamations that the worst is yet to come. At work, we, too, are focused on the matters of concern to residents, including deeply troubling message about foreclosures, recessions, cash shortages, job loss, and criminal messes left for the police to handle.

Politics is are seldom pretty and now is certainly no exception. From Wayne-Westland teachers and school district officials at each others throats over the details of

contract negotiations to separate recall efforts by groups of residents against several members of the Wayne-Westland Board of Education as well as a handful of Westland city officials, everyday events have turned into minefields in which the best you can hope for is that the innocent won't be caught in the crossfire.

I'm going to keep right on covering such newsworthy—if depressing—topics, too. However, I think we've had too steady a diet of bad news and I need your help to do something about it.

Let's bring the good news to light. We're looking for longtime volunteers, individuals and community groups who are taking action to make a difference in the

life of others, and for people who have work hard and attained their dreams.

As the season of giving thanks approaches, please help us here at The Journal Newspapers put more focus on the men, women, and children who are truly assets to our communities. Do you know anyone who qualifies? Let me know!

Call me at (734) 467-1900, write to me at P.O. Box 339, Wayne, MI, 48184 or email me at mchatham@journalgroup.com.

Good news and good people abound in our community. Let's find them and share them with the rest of our community.

Looking around by Meghan Chatham

Letters

City 'dodged a bullet' with failed Walker project

To the editor:

Last week's apparent gasp of renewed breath by the Walker Project now appears to have been a death rattle instead.

Shortly on the heels of the announcement that a grand unavailing of that plan for the taking and destruction of Belleville private property for a downtown grocery store parking lot, Walker officials announced that the project was dead due to problems associated with financing.

The cancellation of that plan, while greeted with approval by many, has quite unexpectedly illustrated a potentially serious and major project planning flaw. That flaw was the failure of not incorporating within the Walker plan a fall-back position that would address the possibility of a failure in securing long term stable financing that would have ensured completion of the project.

Due to Walker's decision to abandon its grocery store plan, coupled with the recent collapse of many American financial institutions, perhaps the City of Belleville has inadvertently escaped a disastrous situation. Had the city and Walker been successful last year in securing those 14 homes and other buildings, and had those properties been removed from local tax rolls, and had Walker initiated its development plan and then decided to abandon it, today the city could have been faced not only with the loss of previous tax revenues but could also have faced the unhappy circumstance of having to live for perhaps years with the

remains of a that failed project in the middle of town.

And that is exactly the problem many area communities must now face as other developers in other communities have been forced to halt development plans due to the loss of financing. These scars on the community are created quickly by unforeseen circumstances and often will last for years.

This is not to suggest that this scenario would have happened here or that the dramatic change in the nation's financial institutions could have been predicted by Walker or city officials. However, the lack of provisions within the Walker Project plans for protecting the city from such an unexpected circumstance could have resulted in an unfinished building shell serving as an unsightly anchor in our downtown surrounded only by empty space where Belleville homes and historic buildings once existed. Not a welcome addition to our already struggling downtown.

There is however, one valuable lesson to be learned from these developments. In our haste to improve our community, and improve it we must, the best of intentions cannot and will not protect us from unexpected circumstances and/or poor planning. It is therefore incumbent upon our city officials to think carefully, move slowly, enlist the full support of the community through clear and concise public information, engage the best possible planners and to build into any agreement provisions that would mitigate any such future disaster.

With the distraction of the Walker Project now off the table, city officials should go to work on an initially

less intensive plan for the improvement of Belleville. A good place to start would be with an immediate plan for the spring repair of Main Street followed quickly by the implementation of the much discussed Downtown Facade Program.

Most importantly, In the wake of the death of the controversial Walker Project, it should be clear to most residents that in spite of the final result, the work, the interest and the good intentions of those many city officials who had worked so hard to improve our town should not be ignored. They are to be commended for their efforts and thanked for their sincere interest in their town

Dennis G. Fasset,
Belleville

Candidate thanks voters, workers and current supervisor

To the editor:

I would like to extend a gracious "Thank You" to all the Van Buren Township residents who took the time to vote in the General Election. The voters endured long lines in the early morning, and were considerate and kind to their fellow voters and the candidates. The Democratic candidates are very thankful for the tremendous support shown to us by the voters, and I am especially thankful and pleased to be elected to the supervisor position by our residents. I will work hard as your supervisor to show your selection was the right choice.

The poll work-

ers, and especially the absentee voter room workers, deserve our thanks for their hard work at our polls. The absentee room workers were in the room for about 20 straight hours, and are to be commended for their endurance and work.

Also, our current supervisor, Cindy King, invited me to meet with her to create a smooth transition for

the office. Supervisor King has been very professional, courteous, and is presenting me with the necessary information in our meetings for a seamless change of office. I am very thankful to Supervisor King for her professionalism and positive attitude during the transition.

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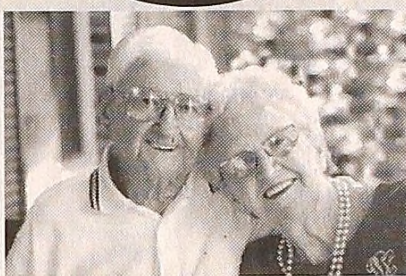
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95. Real Estate
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97. Cottages for Rent

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100. Will Share
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102. Storage
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104. Farms & Acreage for Sale
105. Mobile Homes for Sale
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108. Lake and Resort
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111. Out of State Property
112. Commercial Lease
113. Real Estate Wanted
114. Auto Accessories
115. Autos for Sale
116. Antique & Classic Cars
117. Trucks & Vans for Sale
118. Freebies
119. Auto Repairs
120. Motorcycles
121. Autos Wanted

1. Obituaries



Sunrise: June 21, 1964
Sunset: October 28, 2008
Clinton Antonio Ricks
also known as "Tony" was born June 21, 1964 to the late Jennifer Diane Ricks/Mann (Penny) and John Gaddis, presently residing in Atlanta, Georgia. Jennifer later married Douglas Mann who became Tony's step-father. He leaves to cherish his memory: one sister, Wanda (GC) Gibbs (Harvey); one son, Eric Patterson; one grand-daughter, Te-Eric; one aunt, Linda McCullough (Clyde); three uncles: Gilbert Ricks (Evelyn), Kenneth Ricks, and Gary (Denny) Ricks who also preceded him in death. Penn Funeral Home, 3015 S. Inkster, Inkster, MI, Elder Ronald P. Springer, Officiating, True Love Evangelistic Ministry Interment, Sunset Hills Cemetery, 9470 Ford Rd., Ypsilanti, MI



Sunrise: March 8, 1904
Sunset: October 30, 2008
Ida Mae Breedlove
On October 30, 2008 Ida made her transition and went home to be with the Lord. She leaves to cherish her memory three daughters: Tabtha Kennedy-Overman (James), Thelma Breedlove, Geraldine Breedlove, 7 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and 8 great great grandchildren; her late son, wife Juanita and other family members Savannah and Walter Johnson. She will be missed but fondly and lovingly remembered by host of friends and relatives. Penn Funeral Home, 3015 Inkster Rd., Inkster, MI 48141, Rev. Jerry LaPere, Chaplain, Interment, United Memorial Gardens, 4800 Curtis Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170



Sunrise:
September 11, 1945
Sunset: November 4, 2008
Marvin Calvin Green, Jr.
Uncle leaves to cherish his memory: a son, Demetrius (Boomer) Pugh of Atlanta, GA; two sisters, Janis Hunt and Sandra Swanigan; three nieces, Lisa Edwards, Tonya (Paxton) Sims and Angel Edwards (Atlanta, GA); three nephews, Marvin Edwards

30. Help Wanted

Wayne-Westland Community Schools Open Positions as follows:
CAM Instructor M&W 6:00-10:30 pm.
Must possess a Permanent or Provisional Michigan Teaching Certificate or be eligible for Annual Authorization to teach in program area. Posting closes November 18 -EOE- For more information call WDFCTC : 734-419-2100
Apply on-line at <http://wwcsd.net> or come to Human Resources to access the online application system
Wayne-Westland Community Schools, 36745 Marquette, Westland 48185

59. Auctions

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION
at J & T Crova Towing,
36573 Grant, Romulus, MI 48174, 734-941-1520,
Wed., November 26, 2008
at 9:00 am
1994 PLYMOUTH ACCLAIM
3P3AA4636RT251857
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1FALP6637SK150326
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SPORTS

Leap of faith Canton runners lead way to title

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Late in the first quarter Canton sophomore running back Davion Stackhouse leapt over Saline defenders to pick up a few yards and kept the Canton offense rolling forward.

It was a flashy, if not risky, move for the usually safe and cautious Canton ground game.

Stackhouse eventually scored on a one-yard plunge to help his Chiefs swat the Hornets, 42-21, and capture the district crown at home on Friday night.

Then again, it's not that unusual for the Chiefs to keep defenders guessing with their misdirectional move-the-ball-at-all-costs ground attack. Stackhouse just did what he was capable of and expected to do-move the ball. He is also just one of the many weapons in Canton's running arsenal that play like they have complete faith in the offensive line and surrounding teammates.

Stackhouse's leap of faith was not just a picture of personal athleticism but a mural that showcased the team chemistry that keeps the Chiefs moving forward on the field and in the playoff brackets.

That was the case on Friday when Canton racked up 471 rushing yards in the victory.

"I think the offensive line came

off the football and moved people real well," said Canton Coach Tim Baechler. "I give credit to them. (Stackhouse) got out there and made some things happen but our million-dollar players are the o-line. Speed helps, but we got a couple of other backs that can do that, too."

Friday was Stackhouse's day. He accounted for 233 of the team's rushing yards and four touchdowns.

But any night could belong to anyone in the Canton backfield.

Senior running back Kiere Daniels added 131 yards on 13 attempts and a score. Junior Adam Payter-known to lead the pack several times this season-had 53 yards. Junior quarterback Kevin Delapaz ran for 47 and junior Ron Gaudi added seven late in the game.

The first half was back and forth as the teams traded scores.

Canton's running game made its statement early, when the Chiefs scored on a 68-yard run by Daniels just 1:25 into the contest. Saline's Travis Owens pounded out a five-yard tally to even things up at seven.

Canton answered with Stackhouse's one-yard score with 58 seconds left to go up, 14-7. Then, at the 8:41 mark, Saline's Nick Moeller busted out a 27-yard run to knot things up at 14.

The tide turned to Canton's favor the rest of the first half.

Stackhouse escaped for a 53-yard jaunt at the 7:33 mark and Delapaz, with his first and only pass of the night, found a wide-open senior tight end Todd Turfe for a 29-yard score with 2:54 left in the second frame.

Saline had a chance to cut into the lead at the end of the half but Canton's Justin Sneddon recovered a loose fumble with 15 seconds left.

Stackhouse put the game out of reach with an 86-yard touchdown at 9:15 of the third-the period's only mark. He capped off the scoring for the Chiefs with an eight-yard score at 9:07 of the fourth.

Saline saved a second-half shutout with a 17-yard pass from Moeller to Evan Kourtjian with 3:24 left to play.

Other than a few miscues in the third quarter, Baechler said he liked what he saw from his offense.

"I thought we had a couple of drives there in the third quarter where I thought we could really put things away," he said. "We had the fumble and we missed a block on second down and on fourth down my tight end didn't get out there. Besides that they dominated pretty well. They are very physical tonight and I was happy with them."

Senior Dan Stoney was a perfect 6-of-6 for extra point attempts.

Defense was the biggest improvement the Chiefs made between the regular season and



Canton sophomore running back Davion Stackhouse (23) leaps over Saline defenders on Friday night during the district championship at Canton. Stackhouse racked up 233 yards on the ground and scored four touchdowns in the Chiefs' 42-21 victory.

the playoffs.

"That's a tough offense-and we

See Chiefs, page 10

Tiger time Belleville wins district

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

In volleyball this season is proving to be the Year of the Tiger:

The Belleville Lady Tigers captured the Class A District 15 championship when they beat John Glenn in the finale at Ypsilanti High School on Friday night.

The Lady Rockets, coming off an emotional upset over district favorite Garden City on Wednesday, didn't make it easy on the Tigers. Glenn and Belleville traded games, pushing for a fifth one that the Tigers won, 15-10, to secure the match, 3-2.

"We knew it would be a good match," said Belleville Coach Sam Villa. "We knew it would be close. We faced each other twice in tournaments with both sides winning

one."

In the final game Belleville raced to a 6-2 lead and, when they gained a 14-7 advantage, Villa knew it was over.

"I was feeling pretty good at that point," he said.

The Tigers opened the championship match with a 25-20 victory in the first game. Glenn battled back and took the second game, 25-20, to even the series. Belleville answered with a 25-18 win in game three. Glenn didn't give in and finished the fourth game, 25-21, to force the final fifth game, 15-point tiebreaker.

Senior Ashley Blaszcak continued to shine for the Tigers. She knocked down 20 kills and four blocks on offense and dug up 16

See Volley, page 10



Inkster junior quarterback Devin Gardner (right) stretches for the Viking touchdown in the third quarter of a district final against visiting Trenton on Saturday. Inkster won the game, 52-0.

102-0 Inkster averages 51-0 in playoffs

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Someone forgot to tell the Inkster Viking varsity football team-or their opponents-that it was playoff time.

In two district games the mighty Vikes scored an unheard of 102 points while keeping their challengers scoreless, making games against Gibraltar Carlson and Trenton look like preseason scrimmages.

A week after shutting out Carlson, 50-0, Inkster shocked a hopeful Trenton, 52-0, to win the district championship at home on Saturday. The victory moved the Vikings into regional play against visiting Chelsea at 1 p.m. on Saturday.

"That's 102 to zip," said a stunned Alan Freeman, a senior running back for Inkster. "This is just one more in the book but we still have a lot of games to go. We feel good. Our defense is playing really good-we just have to keep it up."

Freeman did his part.

He racked up 109 yards on nine rushes and scored on a 41-yard run to make it a 30-0 game with 40 seconds left in the first quarter-yes, quarter. Before that, Freeman snagged a 20-yard touchdown pass from junior quarterback Devin Gardner with 3:20 left in the first to make it a 22-0 ball game.

Gardner connected with senior receiver Cameron Gordon for the two-point conversion and a 24-0 advantage.

Gardner was an impressive 7-of-10 passing for 120 yards and two scores on the day. He did plenty

of damage on the ground, too, rushing for 52 yards and three touchdowns.

Trenton, at times, made it easy for Inkster. The Trojans fumbled on their first drive. Freeman secured the ball at Trenton's 35.

Gardner found senior receiver Eric Williams for a 15-yard score at 9:38 of the first. Junior running back Alonso Collins punched in the two-points for an 8-0 lead.

Senior linebacker Denzel Richmond blocked a Trenton punt that freshman lineman Marquise Wallace recovered. That set up Gardner's seven-yard score that he followed up with a run into the end zone for a two-point conversion at 6:34 of the first. That put Inkster up, 16-0.

Senior running back Kevin Brown added a six-yard touchdown at 8:03 of the second quarter. Gardner and Gordon connected again for the two-points to lead, 38-0.

Junior defensive lineman Marcus Jones nabbed an interception with 4:52 left in the first half to help set up Gardner's six-yard keeper with 44 seconds left. Freeman carried in the two-point to make it a 44-0 game at the half.

Gardner capped off the scoring with a 20-yard run up the right side with 6:18 left in the third. Freeman followed with the two-points.

"We played well against a good team," said Inkster Coach Greg Carter. "We were able to throw the ball and also run it-we were balanced today so that helped us. We had a short field in the beginning

See Vikes, page 10



Belleville senior hitter Ashley Blaszcak sets up for a kill against John Glenn on Friday at Ypsilanti High School. Belleville won the match in five games to wrap up the district title. Photo by Scott Greb

Belleville Tigers oust Romulus Eagles in 3

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Belleville held off a rallying Romulus Eagle squad in the third game of the district volleyball match last Wednesday to win and move on to the finals.

The Romulus Lady Eagles put their best effort forward in the third game of the district semifinal at Ypsilanti but it was too little too late as the Lady Tigers held on for a 26-24 victory to win the match, 3-0.

"That was a good game for us," said Belleville Coach Sam Villa. "I'm glad the way the girls came out and played. They didn't play as well against Ypsilanti and I thought they came out and made a statement during these first two games."

Romulus almost didn't make the match at all.

The Eagles' bus was an hour late picking them up. And if it wasn't for the first match between John Glenn and Garden City going five games they would have gone straight from the bus seats to the gym floor-cold-according to Romulus Coach Mike Hunter.

"I think they were a little nervous," he said of his players. "We had a little pressure getting there. They never really got into a rhythm until that last game and finally they started working and talking and moving."

Both teams moved up a division in the Mega-Belleville to the faster, elite Red and Romulus to the second-best, White.

The pace was evident as Bellville got started with an early 8-1 lead in the first game and carried that to a 25-11 victory.

"I don't think Romulus was used to that faster pace of being in the (Mega) White," Villa said. "In the Red we were the same way against Garden City. Sure, we volleyed with them-but they were faster than us. It helps that we moved up to the Red-it's made us a better ball club."

Romulus improved in the second game but still couldn't keep pace with the faster Tigers. Belleville won, 25-15.

Romulus came out firing in the third game, hoping to stay alive. The Eagles took a 9-4 lead with senior Brianna Grover earning two kills and a block in that span.

Belleville clawed its way back with solid serving, offense and defense and tied the game at 13. Senior Rachel Morrissey had back-to-back-back kills to give the Tigers a 16-14 lead. Senior Ashley Blaszcak scored on two consecutive kills and notched an ace to keep her Tigers up 22-21.

Belleville hit it out of bounds twice for Romulus to close the gap, 24-23. Then Grover knocked down an ace to knot things up at 24. Belleville held on for the 26-24 win.

Blaszcak led the Belleville attack with 14 kills.

"Ashley was dominant at the net like she has been all year," Villa said. "We had some good passing. Brittany Villa puts it up on a dime and Ashley takes care of it. If we can just keep her moving along the net and get her hitting different spots on the floor instead of just outside I think we will be pretty successful."

Senior Brittany Villa racked up 30 assists in the effort.

Morrissey added 13 kills-six in

the third game.

"Rachel has been very consistent all year," Villa said. "She's worked hard in the off-season and its shows."

Senior Shana Tooley led the defense with 14 digs and senior Megan Gohl added 10.

Despite the loss the Eagles put together an otherwise solid night.

Romulus junior Sheila Watts led the Eagle defense with 25 digs while senior Sam Watson added 18.Senior Chelsea Hayes led the attack with

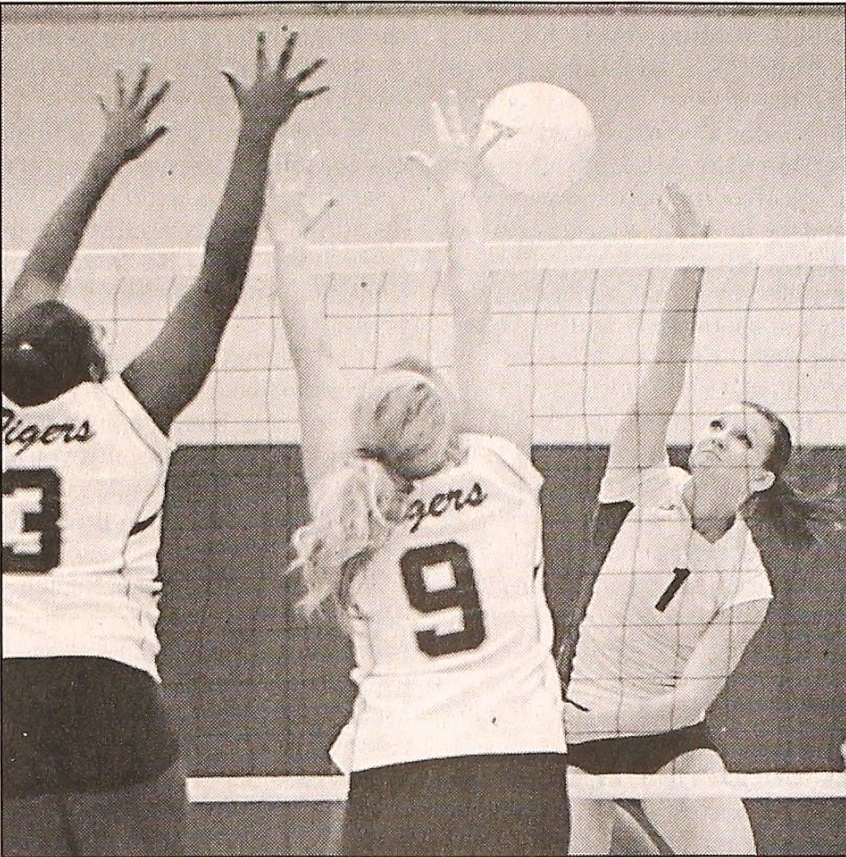
18 kills. Grover had eight. Senior Mary Ann Watts offered 19 assists and four aces.

"They know how to play," said Hunter. "These girls are a great bunch of kids. They have been playing together for four years-most of them. The biggest thing is that they were nervous and when they're nervous they don't communicate things like that are going to happen. Once they started communicating they were in it. Unfortunately it's a done deal."

Romulus graduates eight seniors in June but Hunter said he has eight junior varsity players-most of them, sophomores-moving up, including, sophomore outside hitter Shaelyn Melville and freshman middle Rosie Lovelady who were brought up the last couple weeks of this season.

"It was a great season and I want to congratulate all of my seniors and I'm looking forward to next year," Hunter said.

Sam Villa and his Tigers moved on to the finals against John Glenn at Saline on Friday (see related story on page 8).



Romulus senior Samantha Bankey (1) tries to get on by Belleville blockers Shakiyla Price (3) and Brittany Villa (9) in a district semifinal bout last Wednesday. Belleville won the match in three games.

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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD OCTOBER 27, 2008 IN THE ROMULUS CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER 11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Randolph Gear.
Present: John Barden, Ellen Craig-Bragg, Harry Crout, William Crova, Randolph Gear, William Wadsworth.
Excused: LeRoy Burcroff
Administrative Officials in Attendance: Alan Lambert, Mayor Linda R. Choate, Clerk

1. Motion by Crova, supported by Barden to approve the agenda as amended.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-338

2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Barden to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held October 13, 2008.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Barden, Bragg, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously

- 3 A. None

08-339

- 4A. Motion by Crova, supported by Wadsworth to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of Jean Edith Richert.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously

4. Motion by Crova, supported by Barden, to accept the Chairpersons Report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-340

- 5A. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Bragg to concur with the recommendation of Lynn Conway, Purchasing Coordinator and Debra Hoffman, Finance Director to award bid 08/09-02, for office furniture for the Finance Department to the lowest acceptable bidder. S.O.S. Smart Office Systems in the amount of \$7,480.56

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-341

- 5B. Motion by Crova, supported by Bragg to concur with the recommendation of Thomas Wilson, DPW Director and legal counsel to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into an agreement with OHM for the creation of a Capital Improvement Plan for the City of Romulus, cost not to exceed \$18,700.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-342

- 5C. Motion by Barden, supported by Crout to concur with the recommendation of the Administration and approve the re-appointment of Julie Allison, Dan Bales, and Daryl Jamieson to the Tax Increment Finance Authority with a term to expire on November 30, 2012.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-343

- 5D. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Bragg to concur with the recommendation of Randy McMahan, DPW Director, and legal counsel to authorize the City of Romulus to enter into an agreement with Jimco Airport West, Inc., assuring the demolition of the properties commonly known as "The Barracks" on or before December 1, 2008 and repayment to the City of Romulus for previous boarding up expenses in the amount of \$6,988.43.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-344

- 5E. Motion by Crova, supported by Wadsworth to concur with the recommendation of Timothy Keyes, Economic Development Director to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to complete, execute and file an application for a new Class C liquor license for the Romulus

Athletic Center; to be used by concessionaires, is not transferable and shall authorize the sale of alcohol only in connection with a scheduled even.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-345

- 5F. Motion by Bragg, supported by Barden to introduce Budget Amendment 07/08-39:

FUND/DEPT.	ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	CURRENT BUDGET	AMENDMENT	AMENDED BUDGET
General Fund Expense					
101-5110-751.75-22		Recreation Rental Expense	0	15,315	15,315
Fund Balance					
101-0000-390.00-00		General Fund Balance	3,829,003	(15,315)	3,813,688

Romulus Athletic Center

Revenue					
208-0000-410.66-70		Rental Revenue	0	15,315	15,315
Fund Balance					
208-0000-390.00-00		RAC Fund Balance	69,450	15,315	84,765

To properly reflect the cost for the Recreation Department's use of the RAC building from April - June 2008.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Abstain - Crout.
Motion Carried.

08-346

- 5G. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crova to introduce Budget Amendment 08/09-05:

FUND/DEPT.	ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	CURRENT BUDGET	AMENDMENT	AMENDED BUDGET
Expense					
101-5110-751.70-20		Recreation Regular Wages	266,577	41,563	308,140
101-5110-751.72-10		Recreation Social Security	24,129	2,576	26,705
101-5110-751.72-20		Recreation Medicare	5,643	603	6,246
101-5110-751.72-30		Recreation Retirement	27,324	4,260	31,584
101-5110-751.72-40		Recreation Health Insurance	48,208	30,973	79,181
101-5110-751.72-80		Recreation Workman's Comp.	6,064	785	6,849
101-5110-751.75-22		Recreation Rental Expense	0	168,515	168,515
Fund Balance					
101-0000-390.00-00		General Fund Balance	3,920,999	(249,275)	3,671,724

Romulus Athletic Center

Revenue					
208-0000-410.66-70		Rental Revenue	0	168,515	168,515
Fund Balance					
208-0000-390.00-00		RAC Fund Balance	0	168,515	168,515

- 1) To appropriate cost for an additional laborer assigned to the recreation department;
2) to properly reflect the cost for the Recreation Department's use of the RAC building for the 2008/2009 fiscal year.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - Crout.
Motion Carried.

08-347

11. Motion by Bragg, supported by Barden to authorize the City Treasurer to disburse funds as listed in Warrant 08-20 in the dollar amount of Seven Hundred Four Thousand, Five Hundred Ninety One Dollars, and Seventy Nine Cents (\$704,591.79).

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Abstain - Crova.
Motion Carried.

12. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crova to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Linda R. Choate, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

I, Linda R. Choate, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of he regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held on October 27, 2008.

Linda R. Choate, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: November 13, 2008

SPORTS

Mega teams search for new conferences

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Now that the Michigan Mega Conference is no more, some high schools are still looking for new homes for their athletic teams.

Where will they go now?

Some of the 28 schools included in the Mega Conference defected and formed new leagues. Teams like Allen Park, Southgate, Taylor Truman, Taylor Kennedy, Lincoln Park, Woodhaven, Wyandotte Roosevelt, Gibraltar Carlson and Melvindale formed what is being called the Downriver League.

Monroe and Ypsilanti left to join the Southeastern Conference (SEC), leaving 16 teams to fend for themselves. Those remaining had a choice: to remain in the Mega or find new homes. Nine of those teams made the decision for the rest.

The three Dearborn schools and the three Dearborn Heights schools along with Garden City, Redford Union and Redford Thurston met in secret, according to Inkster Athletics Director Greg Carter, to form what is tentatively

labeled as the Northwestern Conference.

That leaves Belleville, Romulus, Inkster, Highland Park, Ecorse, River Rouge and Willow Run dangling in the wind.

The seven remaining teams could stay as the Mega, but Ecorse, River Rouge and Willow Run are no match for heavy hitters like Inkster, Romulus, Belleville and Highland Park.

"I didn't want to be in a league with those teams," said Carter, whose football team just beat Carlson, 50-0, and Trenton, 52-0, in the playoffs last week. "It would be like taking a step backward."

Romulus Athletics Director Mark Woodson petitioned the SEC and the Kensington Lakes Activities Association (KLAA) only to be rejected by both. The KLAA filled its last spot with Grand Blanc and the SEC took on Monroe and Ypsilanti.

Belleville, Romulus and Inkster banded together and applied to the nine-team Northwestern league with the hopes of expanding it to 12 teams, according to Carter.

So far no answer has been given,

according to Woodson.

As a backup plan, Woodson also applied to the Downriver League but hasn't heard anything yet.

"We just want to find a home," he said. "We don't have a preference of where we go, we just want to go somewhere. I think we can compete in either conference. Our superintendent (Carl Weiss) has been great during the process and very proactive in keeping up with everything."

If not taken in by either group all three might have to play as independent teams for a year, which would cause more problems.

"It would be extremely difficult on scheduling if we're not a part of a conference," Woodson said. "We would have to play against powerhouses like Brother Rice and I don't think that would be helpful to our programs."

"For football it wouldn't be a problem to find games for week one and week nine, but very difficult for the middle of the season if you're not in a league," Carter added. "And then you have the same problems with all of the sports."

The addition of Inkster, Romulus

and Belleville would help take some of the contending power out of the heavily favored Dearborn schools.

"I think the conference needs us because right now you're looking at the Dearborn teams dominating every year," Carter said. "With

Belleville, Romulus and Inkster in there it would be much more competitive."

Administrators for the three wayward schools met with the Northwestern authorities on Tuesday but the results of the meeting were unavailable at press time.

Volley

FROM PAGE 8

saves on defense.

Senior Rachel Morrissey added 11 kills and senior Shakiyla Price, seven, on the night. Senior Megan Gohl had 15 digs.

Getting the ball to top hitters Blaszcak and Morissey was in the hands of senior Brittany Villa. And she was huge for the Tigers as she has been all season. She set up 33 kills for her teammates and served up four aces in the outing.

"I'm really proud of her," said her coach and father Sam Villa. "It was tough for her starting on varsity as a freshman and being the coach's daughter. She dealt with it and made all-conference the last two years."

Sam Villa's strategy was to key on Glenn's top players—senior cap-

tains Brittany Holbrook and Stacey Truskowski.

"We knew (Holbrook) would get her kills," Sam Villa said. "So we knew that we had to try and maintain everyone else. We kind of knew where (Truskowski) would hit and we defender her pretty good."

Holbrook did get hers in while Truskowski struggled against the tough defense. Holbrook led the attack with 25 kills and five sols blocks. Sophomore Halie Baker finished with 11 kills and four blocks.

"It was very close all the way through," said Glenn Coach Julian Wargo. "The first four games were up and down. We struggled early with some service errors in game one but came back in game two and it was a seesaw the rest of the way."

Wargo was hoping three times would be the charm. The Rockets had made it to the district finals the last three years but had come empty

handed each time. The loss seemed even more disappointing to Wargo after beating Garden City in five games in the semifinal on Wednesday.

"As happy and excited as I was after beating Garden City on Wednesday, I was equally sad on Friday," he said. "We played with a lot of heart and I'm proud of the effort the girls' put forth."

Belleville (22-11-1) started regional play this week with a match-up against Airport Carlton (45-7) at Saline on Tuesday but the results were unavailable at press time.

Vikes

FROM PAGE 8

of the game and that got it started."

According to both Freeman and Carter, there is still plenty to work on before they host Chelsea on Saturday.

"We got a lot of penalties," Freeman said.

Chiefs

FROM PAGE 8

only gave up 21 points—I'm happy with that," Baechler said. "Our defense is just playing faster. They're were giving up points, playing scared and soft, trying to be perfect."

"I told them to go have fun and fly around and hit people and if (the opposing team) scores points at least it's going to be exciting—we're going to have some big hits and make

"The penalties keep taking us back—that's hurting us but we'll get it together. The o-line is growing up big-time especially 54 (Wallace) our freshman—he's growing up real fast."

The 9-2 Chelsea Bulldogs might give the Vikings a fight. They bring a potent ground attack led by Nick Hill who amassed 320 yards against Mason on Friday night. Inkster's defense will have its hands full.

Kickoff is scheduled for 1 p.m. on Saturday at Inkster High School.

things happen for ourselves. The last three weeks we've started playing that way and we're getting better."

The defense nearly kept the Hornets scoreless in the second half if not for the late touch-down pass. Senior defensive back Nick Sweda contributed with two interceptions to stymie Hornet drives in the second half. He also secured an interception at the end of the Plymouth game last week to secure that victory.

His presence was missed early in the The Chiefs (10-1) move on to regional play when they host Livonia Stevenson (9-2) at 7 p.m. on Friday.

CITY OF ROMULUS BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING 28450 NORTHLINE ROAD

Pursuant to Michigan Public Act 110 of 2006, as amended (The City and Village Zoning Act), notice is hereby given that the City of Romulus will hold a public hearing at **7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 3, 2008** for the purpose of considering a variance request. The public hearing will be held at the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus MI 48174-1485.

The Board of Zoning Appeals has set the public hearing to consider variances from the City of Romulus Zoning Ordinance to allow for an employee parking lot expansion as follows:

1. A variance from Section 9.03 to allow a 10-foot front yard setback. The Zoning Ordinance requires a 40-foot front yard setback; therefore, a 30-foot variance is required.
2. A variance from Section 13.03(b)(3) to allow a fence to be located in the front yard along the property line. The Zoning Ordinance allows fences in the front yard only if they are located at the 40-foot setback line; therefore, a variance is required.

The subject property is located at 28450 Northline Road. Parcel# 82-80-095-99-0036-701. Copies of the application are available for review at City Hall during regular business hours.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend and will be given an opportunity to comment on said request. Written comments may be submitted until 12:00 noon, Wednesday, December 3, 2008 and should be addressed to Cynthia I. Lyon, AICP, Planning Director, Economic Development Department, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174-1485.

Linda R. Choate, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: November 13, 2008

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PO80086 05/08

CITY OF ROMULUS BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING 10170 HYDE PARK ROAD

Pursuant to Michigan Public Act 110 of 2006, as amended (The City and Village Zoning Act), notice is hereby given that the City of Romulus will hold a public hearing at **7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 3, 2008** for the purpose of considering a variance request. The public hearing will be held at the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus MI 48174-1485.

The Zoning Board of Appeals has set the public hearing to consider a variance from Section 14.01(f), Restaurants, Drive-through Restaurant, to allow nine (9) stacking spaces for the drive-through window. The Zoning Ordinance requires ten (10) stacking spaces for each food pickup window; therefore, a one (1) stacking space variance is required. The subject property is located at 10170 Hyde Park Road. DP# 82-80-051-01-0033-302. Copies of the application are available for review at City Hall during regular business hours.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend and will be given an opportunity to comment on said request. Written comments may be submitted until 12:00 noon, Wednesday, December 3, 2008 and should be addressed to Cynthia I. Lyon, AICP, Planning Director, Economic Development Department, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174-1485.

Linda R. Choate, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: November 13, 2008

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT USE OF FUNDS

On Tuesday November 18, 2008, in accordance with guidelines of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Van Buren Township will hold the first of two public hearings in order to receive comments from residents of the community on the proposed use of the Township's 2009 Community Development Block Grant funds. The Public Hearing will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Van Buren Township Hall located at 46425 Tyler Road.

The estimated funding level for the 2009 CDBG Budget Year is \$135,000. The CDBG program gives priority to those qualified activities which further national objectives. These objectives are:

- Assist low and moderate-income persons
- Address slum or blight conditions
- Meet a particularly urgent community development need

The following projects are proposed and subject to approval by the Board of Trustees:

Senior Services - Public Services	
• A portion (23%) of the Senior Director's wages	\$11,500.00
• Transportation coordinator	\$10,900.00
• Telephone reassurance staff person	\$ 9,100.00
• Senior Center administrative intern	\$ 7,000.00
Senior Services - Bricks & Mortar	
• Office area additions	\$10,500.00
Parks & Recreation - Public Services	
Youth Services	
• Takin' It To The Streets	\$14,000.00
• Youth instruction and activities	\$ 6,000.00
Parks & Recreation Brick & Mortar projects	
• Physical fitness area for youth/closet rebuild	\$ 5,000.00
Demolition	\$ 47,500.00
Planning / Administration	\$ 13,500.00
Total Funding	\$135,000.00

Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m., Tuesday December 2, 2008.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Joannie D. Payne, CMC, Township Clerk
Charter Township of Van Buren

Publish: November 6, 2008
November 13, 2008

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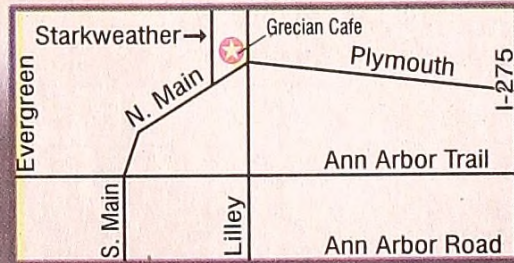


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